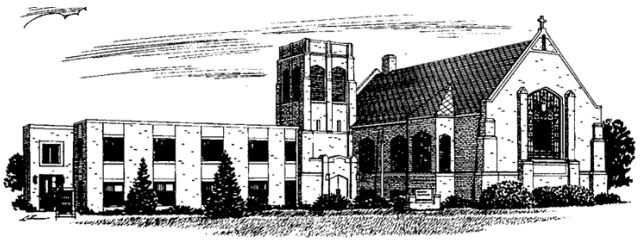


SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

February 2018

Who Jesus is for us, with us, and among us today - that is the theme we will be delving into at our mid-week Lenten worship this year, especially as we hear it through the stories and voices of people from across the world and through the different portraits of Jesus given by our Gospel writers.

We often refer to the season of Lent as a journey. I invite you to join me in this walk, as we explore, worship, and learn together.

Pastor Joan

The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Bell Choir Director
Email: roll1mc@gmail.com
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Denise Cook, Financial Secretary
Danielle Hohman, Child Care

Sundays at Saron:
During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

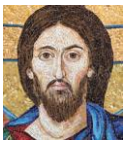
Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2018
Worship at 12:15 and 7:00 PM
Holy Communion + Imposition of Ashes



Mid-Week Series - Faces of Christ
with Holden Evening Prayer
Soup Supper 6:00 PM + Worship 7:00 PM

Wednesday, Feb 21
Faces of Christ
Wednesday, Feb 28
Partnersin Mission
Wednesday, March 7
Faith and Thanksgiving
Wednesday, March 14
God in the Neighborhood
Wednesday, March 21
Hunger and Hope

For those who are able, a sign-up sheet to bring soup, bread, and salad is in the narthex.

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –

We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; and **Bernice Koski** is at Woodland Terrace: **Virginia Anserello** is at Pine Ridge, Stevensville;

Serving in the military:

Andy Wedde – **California**
Sarah Deal Burrow – Afghanistan

Office Hours at Saron
Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9:30 AM - 11 AM+
Denise (financial secretary): times vary
Call for other times/changes
Pastor: most mornings, except Fridays
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in February Birthday Wishes

Feb. 2 - Lindsay Gilmore-Gaspari
3 - Makayla Bradley
5 - Jerry Stelling
Erin Vollmer
6 - Linda Dipert
Mary Alice Brunner
8 - Ernst Knauf
Krystina Walker
9 – Frieda Williams
10 - Aiden Ashley
15 - Robert King
21 - Ryan Talbert
Bob Seymour
22 - Darlene Kiessel
26 - Wendy King
28 - Cheryl Houser

For additions or corrections, please call the church office at 983-1273. Thank you.

WELCOME

We welcome into God's family, Lee Joseph, son of Claire and Kyle Carter, who was baptized at Saron December 31. Lee's godparents are Jane Ulrey and John Wallace.

TIME TO RENEW "LIVING LUTHERAN" MAGAZINE

"Living Lutheran," the magazine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, keeps us informed of events and issues impacting Lutherans. Subscribers also have access online to more than 9,000 archived articles and 400 Study guides. Those that have been enjoying *"Living Lutheran"* this past year or those who would like to begin receiving *"Living Lutheran"* will be able to purchase or renew for the price of $9.00 a year.

Please make out a check to Saron and write "Living Lutheran" in the memo area of your check or place cash in an envelope clearly identified with your name, the amount enclosed and the words *"Living Lutheran."* This can be handed in to the office or placed in the offering plate. We want to get all of the subscriptions in as soon as possible so that there will be no lapse in current subscriptions.

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day

Sunday Feb. 4 –
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c (3)
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

Sunday Feb. 11 –
Transfiguration of Our Lord
2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

Sunday Feb.18 –
First Sunday of Lent
Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10 (10)
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

Sunday Feb. 25 –
Second Sunday of Lent
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31 (27)
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

Nursery Help Needed
We are seeking a paid child care worker, age 18 or above. If you know of someone interested, please contact Mary Kynast or Pastor. Also, we always welcome more volunteers for the nursery. If you can help, please sign up at church or let Marilyn Lucy or Krin Jurgensen know of your willingness.

PRAYER GROUP
Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

HYMN NOTES
One of the songs we sang in January was "Lift Every Voice and Sing." As several people commented on it, here is some background info to the hymn, as taken from the "Hymnal Companion to Evangelical Lutheran Worship" p. 726-727.

Around the turn of the twentieth century, some African American men wanted to honor Abraham Lincoln and his Emancipation Proclamation, so they asked James W. Johnson, to write something. He wrote this text, and in 1900, on February 12, Lincoln's birthday, a chorus of school children at the all-black Stanton School in Jacksonville, FL, sang it at an assembly honoring Lincoln. School children elsewhere in Florida picked it up, it spread beyond that state, and by mid-century it had become known as the "Black National Anthem." It is poetry—closer to high-art poetry than to hymnic poetry—that celebrates liberty without neglecting the reality of the "stony road" and the "blood of the slaughtered." Remarkably, however, it moves with hope through "silent tears" without the fury that could easily be expected."

The music for the text was written by Johnson's brother, John Rosamund Johnson. It is generally considered a choral anthem and not a congregational melody, due to the melody's wide range, and rhythms.

Next time you are at worship, check it out again at ELW #841.

Learning
book *of* faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

Thursday Bible Class
"by heart" - Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism is our current study. We meet on Thursday mornings from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. The discussions on February 1 and 8 will be on Holy Communion. We will not meet in Lent. Newcomers are always welcome.

Men's Monthly Devotion
On Saturday, February 3, 2018 Saron Men's Monthly Devotion and Breakfast group will meet at the Galley Grill on Red Arrow Highway in Stevensville at 9:00 am. The Galley Grill is on the Super 8 Motel property at 4296 Red Arrow Highway just north of the Tyler Honda car dealership. We welcome new participants!

Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17).

Tuesday Evening Bible Study will continue our study of World Religions through February 6. Then we will take a break for Lent and Easter. We'll resume our study on April 3. The schedule of our leaders for the World Religions study is as follows:

Study of World Religions
Jan 30 - Shito - Eric Standen
Feb 6 - Islam - Charlie Pater
Feb 13 - Apr 1 - Lent and Easter - no Bible Study
Apr 3 - Christianity - What we believe - Scott Kohs
Apr 10 - Two Common Questions - Tyler Cook

Saron's Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study meets at 6:00pm at the church. At 7:00pm we adjourn for a time of fellowship (something to eat and something to drink). We know everyone is busy so Bible study is a "come as you can" group. All men are invited to join in.

For more information call or text Bob Kynast at 269-921-2786 or email at bobkynast@gmail.com

1ST SUNDAY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

We begin our 2018 series on February 11th, 6:30, in the upstairs lounge. This is the second Sunday, due to "conflicting activities" on the first Sunday. Well worth the wait is the "The Lilac Girls", by Martha Hall Kelly. If you read and liked "The Nightingale" or "Sarah's Key", you will like this book about the power of unsung women to change history. An American socialite, a Polish teenager and an ambitious young, female German doctor find themselves thrown together in most unexpected ways. Much has been written about WWII, soldiers, battles, concentration camps, etc. This is an entirely different perspective and based in part, on true happenings. The story told in Kelly's book will stay with you for awhile.

Our March 4th meeting will offer for discussion, "The Art of Arranging Flowers", by Lynne Branard. Do you need to jump start a romance? Mark a celebration? Liven up your home? Express your sympathy? Branard's main character, Ruby Jewell, has made it all happen. Amazon says: "A moving and eloquent novel about love, grief, renewal - and the powerful language of flowers". A perfect winter read.

So, mark these dates. Read. Then come join us to talk and share ideas. Any questions? Call Kathy Cowall (269-428-0354) or kcowall@hotmail.com.

"Books are a uniquely portable magic."
(Stephen King)

Youth

February Youth Group

Saron's Youth Group will be meeting February 11, 2018 at 12:30 for Bible Study and activities. We'll finish up at approximately 2:30. Any non-youth that would like to volunteer and attend, please let Scott know. scottgaspari@outlook.com.

HOUSTON BOUND

We're heading to Houston next summer for the National Youth Gathering. Two youth (Meredith Gacek and Jenna Henderson), as well as two adults (Laurel Gacek and Pastor Joan) are registered. The theme for this event is "This Changes Everything." The primary Scripture will be Ephesians 2:8 *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."*

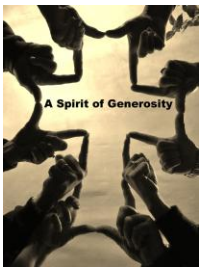
Fundraisers are being planned, including a Trivia Night. Watch for more details!

Support

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving

Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

Stewardship



….with glad and generous hearts, praising God …. Acts 2:46c

As we prepare for another new year let us remember with gratitude all that God has given us: our time and talents, our treasures, our lives. May we be the eyes and ears and the hands and feet of Christ as we show his love and compassion in our church, our neighborhoods, our communities and the world beyond.

We are especially thankful for the generosity of Saron's people. Saron is blessed with a congregation filled with people of all ages who are willing to share their gifts with others. May we continue to give with glad and generous hearts and may God guide us as we live out our mission in 2018.

God's work. Our hands.

STOCK DONATIONS

Saron partners with Scottrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, contact our representative, Bill Fuentas, at (574) 272-1980. The statements we receive from Scottrade do not identify who donated the stock so please notify Eric Standen or Nanci Fenrick when you have donated. This allows us to complete the transaction and to be sure it's added to your giving statement. If you have further questions or concerns contact Eric Standen or Nanci Fenrick.

Saron Lutheran Church Endowment Committee

The mission of the Endowment Committee is to support missions to aid persons both locally and internationally and provide improvements to Saron's facilities. The Committee balances the giving to each of these three goals annually to insure funds are available for growth of each.

Since its inception, the Endowment Committee has awarded over $50,000 for the three areas it focuses on for improvement to missions and facilities. The Committee is always seeking the needs of any mission that may be assisted by its funding and encourages members to inform Committee members of needs of any program that may further their mission. For further information contact Dave Bailey, chair of the Endowment Committee.

Financial Secretary News

Nanci Fenrick, our financial secretary works in the office on Wednesday afternoons, beginning at approximately 2:00. You can reach Nanci at the office during that time. She is also open to phone calls at 269/845-2595 or an e-mail at **nanci0126@yahoo.com**

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

Outreach

FACEBOOK

We love to share pictures of Saron's ministry on our Facebook page and we get great feedback. It is our practice not to put names with the pictures. If you prefer your own or your family member's picture not to be posted, please let us know, so that we can honor that request.

"Joyfully Sharing God's Love For All." Yes, that is what Saron does every day.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS ORNAMENTS -

Generous is certainly a good word to describe the members of Saron. $1,022.00 was donated during Advent to purchase GOOD GIFT items - from goats , honeybees, pigs, to farming tools and MORE!

Thank you very much, Outreach

LENTEN OUTREACH

Saron members have been incredibly generous in their giving to ELCA Good Gifts during Lent. This year we are focusing on Women and Children. Options for "purchase" are as follows:

$125 – Microloan for a Woman

Many women have a dream – and the leadership skills – to start their own small business. But with little savings or access to credit, it's hard to get started. A microloan is just what a woman needs to start her business – weaving, baking or running a storefront, for example – to create a steady source of income, and even better, to help her family escape poverty. And as she repays the loan, the funds are reinvested in a cooperative and the cycle of giving continues to grow.

$40 – School Fees and Uniform for a Girl

More than half of the world's out-of-school children are girls. Many girls stay home to help their families by caring for younger siblings and gathering water. But others simply cannot afford modest school fees and uniforms. When you educate a girl, you not only increase her future earning potential, you help her become a powerful agent for change.

$75.00 Farming Field School for a Woman

Women are the force behind half of the world's food. But they don't always have the same access to the land, supplies and education that their male counterparts do. It's been estimated that if female farmers around the world had equal access to these resources, their increased food production could reduce the number of undernourished people by as many as 100-150 million. With an opportunity to attend field school, they'll learn the latest advancements in agriculture, marketing and leadership, and help nourish their families and communities

$10 School Supplies for a child ($300 for entire classroom)

Imagine being denied the chance to go to school just because your family couldn't afford school supplies. This is the case for far too many children around the world. By providing school books, paper and pencils, you open a world of opportunity

Of course, donations of any amount are gladly received. Check out the display in the narthex to watch our generosity grow!

Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen

On a snowy ,cold, December 28, 112 folks, enjoyed Saron's ham lunch at the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen.

The Soup Kitchen is open 7 days a week, every day of the year. Hunger in our community is an ongoing concern. Thank you for supporting Saron in this Outreach opportunity.

Our volunteers for December were: Kathie and Dave Bradley, Coanne, Carter, and Danielle Hohman, Ruth Ball, Mary Alice Brunner and family. God's Blessings to all, Outreach Committee

LWR Fair Trade

Thank you to all who have supported Fair Trade purchases through Lutheran World Relief. We will no longer be selling these items, at least for the near future. We are currently liquidating any present stock for a donation, until all items are sold.

Support for Sarah Deal Burrow

Saron's Sarah Burrow is serving in the military in Afghanistan. During the next few weeks we will be collecting some valentine goodies, cards, notes - even monetary donations to cover postage. Items may be placed in the box in the church narthex. Thank you for supporting Sarah, as SHE supports all of us. Items will be sent after worship on Feb. 4.

Women of the ELCA

Deborah Circle

Deborah Circle will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 7, 2018, at the home of Mary Kynast. Linda Pater will be the study leader.

Singers and Listeners

Dorcas Circle is having their 4th Annual Hymn Sing on Sunday February 18th at 3:45 p.m. in the scanctuary. Sign up with your favorite hymn after the church services.

Facilities

GOLDEN HAMMERS NEED HELP!

Golden Hammers is a group of volunteers that meets every Wednesday from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the church. They are women and men that gather to do various jobs in and outside of the church that help keep Saron looking good and also saves the church a considerable amount of money. Work includes folding bulletins, preparing the monthly newsletter for mailing, preparing the sanctuary for Sunday service, minor maintenance and some light cleaning/vacuuming. We really need some additional helpers, both men and women. It is a good fellowship opportunity as well as helping to maintain God's house. Please consider helping and if you have any questions talk to Bill Oleson or Pastor Joan.

HELP NEEDED AFTER SECOND SERVICE

Please consider helping out once every other month with the important job of securing our building after the second service. The job would be to lock all the outer doors, turn off lights and check a few areas in the building. It does not take long and usually you only are assigned once every other month if we have enough help. This is a job that needs to be done and we cannot expect our Pastor to have that responsibility. If you can help or you would like to find out more about the job please contact Janet or Bill Oleson.

USED INK CARTRIGES NEEDED

Please save your used ink cartridges as it saves the church money in office supplies. There is a collection box in the Narthex.

New Dishwasher Installed at Saron

A new Hobart Dishwasher has been installed in the kitchen at Saron. PLEASE NOTE. There is no need to add any chemicals when doing a load. DO NOT ADD ANY SOAP, DETERGENT, SANITIZERS OR RINSE AIDE when operating the dishwasher. The new machine is programmed to dispense detergent, sanitizer and drying aids at the proper time during the wash cycle from supply bottles located in a cabinet to the left of the washer. Therefore, there is no need to add any chemicals to the load. It's all done automatically.

Council News

Attendance Record	
12/24/2017	*77*
12/24/2017 Eve	*124*
12/31/2017	*61*
01/07/2018	*87*
01/14/2018	*99*
01/21/2018	*92*

Saron's Council Members – 2017

2018 Council Members will be announced after the Annual Meeting on January 28

Karen Hinckley (326-0688) – President
Matt Bradley (419-306-5780) – Vice President
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Treasurer
Mary Kynast (428-0148) – Secretary

Mary Kynast (428-0148) – Worship*
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Facilities*
Brad Frey (921-8618) – Facilities*
Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – Youth*
Nolan Becker (269-558-3252) – Youth*
Matt Bradley (419-306-5780) – Support*
Tyler Cook (269-930-2810) – Hospitality*
Judi Huff (473-5075) – Hospitality*
Amy Nelson (920-227-5354) – Outreach*
Joan Oleson (983-1273) office;
983-2475 home) – Pastor **liaison*

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

February 2018

2018 FLOWER CALENDAR - *The 2018 flower calendar is posted. Cost: $25.00/vase. This is an opportunity for you to give flowers in honor or memory of someone. The church orders the flowers (unless you indicate otherwise) and you can take the flowers home after 2nd service.*

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES - *You may pick up your 2018 offering envelopes* ***today!*** *They may be found near the church entrance doors. If you receive a giving statement (whether you give through the envelope system or electronically) there is likely a box for you.*

Saron's Vision Statements

Facilities
Create a physical environment that will support our ministry
Hospitality – Inclusivity and Welcoming
Offer for all, Christ's radical hospitality.
Worship
Provide enhanced relevant worship experiences.
Outreach
Serve our community with 100% participation of those who worship at Saron.
Youth
Strive to encourage each of our youth to grow into their unique potential for a Christ centered life.
Learning
Center our lives in Christ through life-long learning!

Saron Volunteer Schedule

	February 4 ***Fifth Sunday After Epiphany***		***February 11*** ***Transfiguration of Our Lord***		***February 18*** ***First Sunday in Lent***		***February 25*** ***Second Sunday in Lent***	
	8:30	**11:00**	**8:30**	**11:00**	***8:30***	***11:00***	***8:30***	***11:00***
Assisting minister	Marilyn Frey	Colleen Lundgren	Pauline Ngonyani	Denise Cook	Wendy King	Bill Oleson	Eric Standen	Bob Kynast
Reader/ Comm. Asst.	Wendy King	Constance Slater	Sue Rood	Tyler Cook	Karen Hinckley	Mary Kynast	Fritz Knauf	Laurel Gacek
Ushers	Fritz Knauf and Steve Bell	Dave and Kathie Bradley	Eric & Deb Standen	Peter and Karen Johnson	Keith Stevens & Jim Manore	Dave & Sue Bailey	Steve Bell & Stephania Ngonyani	Matt Bradley & Tyler Cook
Acolyte	Brooke Henderson	Molly Becker	OPEN	Grant Gacek	Brandon Burrow	Mia Bradley	Carter Hohman	Meredith Gacek
Nursery 1st	Marilyn Lucy	Kate Kohs	Mary Alice Brunner	Judi Huff	Darlene Kiessel	Laura Stark	Deb Standen	Marilyn Lucy
Nursery 2nd		Marilyn Lucy		Meredith Gacek	Jenna Henderson	Lindsay Gaspari		Molly Becker
Bldg. close		Jerry and Ruth Stelling		Bob and Mary Kynast		Marilyn and Brad Frey		Dennis and Colleen Lundgren
Snacks								
Flowers								

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sundays: *Worship at 8:30 & 11:00a.m with Holy Communion* *9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes*				**1** 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	**2** Groundhog Day	**3** 9:00 a.m. Men's Devotion/Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Council Retreat
4 Super Bowl Worship/ Learning Schedule Above Installation of Council Members	**5** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**6** 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**7** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers 7:00 p.m. Deborah Circle meeting	**8** 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	**9**	**10**
11 Worship/ Learning Schedule Above 6:30 p.m. 1st Sunday Book Discussion Group	**12** Newsletter articles due 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**13** 7:00 p.m. Support Committee	**14** Ash Wednesday 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers 12:15 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. Worship	**15** 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	**16**	**17**
18 Worship/ Learning Schedule Above 3:45 p.m. 4th Annual Hymn Sing	**19** Presidents Day 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting	**20** 4:00 p.m. Vasa Meeting	**21** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Worship	**22** 9:30 a.m. Soup Kitchen 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	**23**	**24**
25 Worship/ Learning Schedule Above	**26** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**27**	**28** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Worship			